

From: Jeremy Brown
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: US vs Microsoft

Jeremy Brown

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The Honorable Sen. Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Kennedy:

I am writing you in regards to the proposed settlement in the case of US vs. Microsoft. I am a professional in the IT field and have to deal with Microsoft products on a regular basis. In my opinion, this settlement is not good for the people of the United States or its competitors. Microsoft has bullied its way to the top, and continues to use its considerable clout to keep its position.

In my every day dealings with Microsoft products, I have seen examples of limited choice, poor functionality and inferior workmanship. Some examples:

- * In Windows Millennium Edition and Windows XP, many programs cannot be uninstalled or disabled, wasting space and resources. Examples include Microsoft Passport registration, Windows Media Player, Windows Movie Maker and Windows System Restore. Even if I wished to install another piece of software that would perform the same task more efficiently or with more features, these programs remain.

- * The newest version of the Microsoft Corporate License Program requires any corporate subscriber to upgrade their software on Microsoft's timetable instead of their own. Microsoft states that the cost of software will be lower, but fails to mention that the Total cost of ownership will be higher. The demands that newer Microsoft's software puts on equipment rises in each iteration of the software. Corporations will have to invest in more powerful computers, staff training, and IT management. Reference: [www.idg.net <http://www.idg.net/ic_784747_1794_9-10000.html>](http://www.idg.net/ic_784747_1794_9-10000.html)

- * Microsoft has taken deliberate steps in order to force companies to upgrade to its newer software products. They have announced that it will discontinue support of all previous versions of Windows before Windows 2000 and XP as of the end of 2002. Windows 98 and NT 4.0 are still viable solutions in many companies, and will continue to be for several years to come and without regular updates to these programs from MS, many companies will have to spend more time and effort in maintaining corporate systems. MS has also pulled functionality updates, specifically Windows NT 4.0 service pack 7, which would have allowed companies to maintain their existing servers with newer Windows 2000 based servers and its newer network directory format. When MS introduced Office 97, they changed the format that files were saved making them unreadable for earlier versions of Office. All of these issues relate back to my second point.

- * Time after time, MS has released products that are full of security holes that can endanger the safety of corporate networks, information and

business. The latest Internet Explorer 6 security hole alarmed the FBI to the point that the agency issued a press release aimed at the general public and corporations that pointed out the severe danger level the error posed to computers and networks. In a study recently released by the National Academy of Sciences has called for legislation regulating this issue. Reference: [www.theinquirer.net <http://www.theinquirer.net/22120101.htm>](http://www.theinquirer.net/22120101.htm)

* Microsoft has been proven to take international recognized standards and alter them so that they will work more efficiently with its own products and poorly or not at all with other companies' products. The most famous and egregious is the now-famous Sun Java fiasco, but others have included changes to the Kerberos security protocol and Quality of Service (QoS) protocols.

* In a recently leaked memo MS is said that it will intend to launch a full-fledged Fear, Uncertainty & Doubt (FUD) against Linux, its most capable opponent in the server field. Reference: [www.theinquirer.net <http://www.theinquirer.net/>](http://www.theinquirer.net/)

* Microsoft grossly inflates the price for various versions of its operating systems based on how many processors it can use in a computer, while Linux and most other server operating systems do not. This has led to issues with Intel's newest Pentium chip, which uses a technology called Hyper-Threading and will appear as multiple CPUs to the operating system. To properly use this function at home, minimally you would have to purchase Windows XP or 2000 Professional, at a 33% increase in price over Windows XP Home. The cost for server versions of Windows 2000 would more than double between each version. EG, Windows 2000 Server with 5 licenses costs approximately \$850+ \$50 for each additional license and supports up to four processors, but to properly use a four processor equipped server with the Intel Pentium 4 Xeon processor that supports Hyper-Threading, you would have to purchase Windows 2000 Advanced Server with 25 licenses (minimum amount of licenses available for this product) that would cost approximately \$3400. Reference: [www.theinquirer.net <http://www.theinquirer.net/30120102.htm>](http://www.theinquirer.net/30120102.htm) , [www.pcmall.com <http://www.pcmall.com/>](http://www.pcmall.com/) .

* As seen in the previous point, Microsoft charges you to access their server products that are installed on a server. If you have a small company that only needs 5 Client Access Licenses, you are set. But if you were to hire a temporary employee, you are required to purchase a new license for the temp. Failing to do so could bring about litigation that could cost thousands. No other server operating system does this.

I have listed just eight points that just begin to scratch the surface of the abuse Microsoft commits, and there are hundreds if not thousands of issues that I do not deal with on a regular basis thus cannot address. I hope that you and other members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary will address these points in regards to the poor settlement worked out by the Department of Justice with Microsoft.

Sincerely,

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